

to inhibit selection of an energy density substantially above $5\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$.

A1

19. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 7 [any preceding claim], which includes an optical arrangement for focusing the radiation beam.

26. (Amended) A method according to [according to any of claims 20 to 25] claim 20, wherein the pulse energy rise time is substantially in the range of $50\mu\text{s}$ to $150\mu\text{s}$.

A2

27. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 20 to 25] claim 20, wherein the energy pulse duration is substantially at or below 100ms .

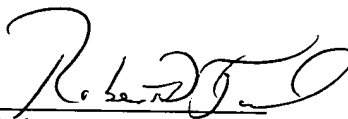
REMARKS

The amendments herein to do not constitute any new matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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